FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 OCTOBER 1985

PLO Affairs

Palestine Liberation Front leader Muhammad 'Abbas will attend the forthcoming Palestinian leadership meeting in Baghdad, which will discuss the latest political and military developments in the Middle East, according to Palestinian sources cited by Radio Monte Carlo. Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf told Palestinians in Baghdad that the PLO will not abandon 'Abbas, the Voice of PLO noted. He also criticized Jordanian King Husayn's statements on the breakdown of the UK-PLO talks as hasty and inappropriate, asserting that the Jordanian delegation should not have met the British foreign secretary. Earlier, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan blamed Bishop Iliya Khuri for the failure of the London talks, telling KUNA that the Jordanians informed Khuri beforehand of the contents of the statement which Britain wanted the PLO to sign but that Khuri failed to convey this to the PLO leadership "for reasons of which we are still unaware." In another development, a PLO Executive Committee member cited by Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH* denied that the PLO intends to move its headquarters to Baghdad, Cairo, or Algiers.

Egypt

Egyptian official sources cited by the Abu Dhabi paper *AL-ITTIHAD* disclosed that Egypt has decided to cancel the joint military maneuvers with the United States scheduled for December 1985, WAKH reported. Meanwhile, the Cairo paper *AL-SHA'B* announced that Egyptian security authorities have arrested five Americans on charges of spying for Israel, according to TASS and Tripoli radio.

Israel

Peres in Washington — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated that during his talk with President Reagan, understanding was reached that discussions should be held with Jordan's King Husayn and with moderate Palestinians, without the PLO, Jerusalem radio reported. Peres stressed that he wants to negotiate without preconditions, pointing out that he is not requesting a declaration in advance by King Husayn on the end of the state of belligerency with Israel. As for internal affairs: Senior Labor Party officials meeting in Tel Aviv called for the dismissal of Industry and Commerce Minister Ari'el Sharon from the government because of his criticisms of Peres, Jerusalem radio disclosed, while Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir warned the Likud secretariat that Sharon's attacks could strengthen Peres. Sharon's position in Likud was strengthened by the election of two of his supporters to the four-man Herut Movement central elections committee, according to the radio.

Syria's Relations with Jordan, Turkey

There are "no problems" between Jordan and Syria though there are differences in viewpoints and interpretations, Jordan's King Husayn stated in an *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* interview cited by Amman television.

As for Syrian-Turkish relations, ANATOLIA reported that Turkish Foreign Ministry sources welcomed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's instructions to the Syrian Embassy in Ankara to improve relations with Turkey.

Lebanon

Noting that West Beirut information media have carried extensive reports about an agreement reached in Damascus, Voice of Lebanon radio said informed sources think the agreement will receive official approval at the upcoming Lebanese-Syrian summit and this will be followed by the endorsement of militia leaders Elie Hubayqah, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt and by the comprehensive endorsement of a Lebanese national conference sponsored by Syria. On the security problem, the agreement calls for a declaration ending the state of war; the return of the army to barracks in preparation for rebuilding; the maintenance of security by a unified security apparatus backed by the Syrian Army; and the dissolution of the militias and collection of their weapons. The radio added that the political proposals include provisions for the gradual abolition of sectarianism over a 3-year period and an increase in the number of parliamentary seats, which will be allocated equally between Muslims and Christians. Leadership circles in east Beirut have maintained silence about the publication of this agreement, the radio noted. Clashes between conflicting factions of the Lebanese forces continued in east Beirut 18 October, according to Beirut radio.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front claimed responsibility for the attack on the Voice of Hope broadcasting station, disclosing that the operation was carried out by four "martyrs" from the Communist Party, Beirut radio reported. Jerusalem radio acknowledged that the broadcasting studios were "completely destroyed" in the attack but noted that the station continued broadcasting using temporary premises and replacement equipment.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes raided Khark Island and hit another "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast 18 October, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied Iran's claim that Iranian jets downed an Iraqi plane near Khark Island 15 October.

In Tehran, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i told Revolution Guards officers that Iran has overcome "slight problems" in oil exports from Khark Island and is now capable of exporting more than four million barrels of oil daily, IRNA reported.

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Karmal Interviewed by Pakistani Newspaper Editor
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[Interview conducted by Mushahid Hussain Sayed, editor-in-chief of the Pakistani newspaper *THE MUSLIM*, with Babrak Karmal, PDPA Central Committee General Secretary and Revolutionary Concil President; date and place not given — announcer-read]

[Text][Question] The people are eagerly awaiting the sixth round of regional talks in Geneva concerning Afghanistan due to begin in November. In your opinion, what particular steps should be taken by both sides in order to break the present deadlock? And second, if the sixth round of the Geneva talks fail as did the fifth round in August, what other solution is there to the Afghan question through negotiations since such indirect talks cannot be pursued indefinitely? In that case would your side try to seek a military solution?
[Answer] First, I would like to point out that because of the understandings already reached, both sides should refrain from revealing the details of the topics under discussion at the Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan. Therefore, I can give only general answers to your questions.

It should be stated first that there is no such a thing as an Afghanistan question, and the regional talks have been about the issues around Afghanistan. So far, the main and most important obstacle in this regard is that the Pakistani authorities, under various pretexts, have evaded direct talks. We believe the Pakistani side should be ready for direct talks so the remaining matters can be taken under discussion and a solution sought.

In our opinion, the fifth round of talks were not deadlocked. It could even be said that relative progress was made during this round of negotiations. Now the talks have reached a very complicated and critical phase and if greater success is not achieved, that cannot be considered unnatural. As far as we are concerned, we will again make all efforts to achieve an agreement. However, if the other side does not have political intention and sincerity, then responsibility does not rest with us.

[Question] During the fifth round of the Geneva talks, your side insisted on direct talks with Pakistan and it was because of this that the resumption of talks was delayed for another 2 days. Has the Pakistani side ever, directly or indirectly, stated any word concerning direct talks with your regime? And if so, when and on what level was such a statement made?
[Answer] As far as we know, the talks were not delayed. The first 2 days of this round of talks were spent on meetings between the UN secretary general's envoy and the foreign affairs ministers of the two countries, which is itself a part of the process of negotiations. Not only during the fifth round of talks, but from the beginning up to now, we have insisted that in order to achieve a political settlement, direct talks must begin between the two countries. In consideration of the reasons which I described at the beginning of this conversation, I can only say that the Pakistani side had earlier intimated its readiness for direct talks and this fact was reflected in statements by responsible persons in Pakistan.

[Question] Agreement has been reached in the indirect talks on three of four articles in connection with the Afghanistan question. In view of this fact, what else in particular is expected to be solved during direct talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan, except official recognition of your regime?
[Answer] Progress has been made in negotiations concerning the three main and important documents, but they have not been finalized yet. If Pakistan is ready for direct talks, we are ready to talk with them on the remaining topics too. In connection with the second part of your question, it should be stated that there is no logic to this claim. Such a thing cannot be said. Political, commercial, and other relations exist between the two countries at present and the embassies and consulates of both countries are continuing their activities. The Pakistani authorities use this as a pretext to avoid direct talks. Several examples of interstate diplomatic relations exist where countries, even without officially recognizing each other, have sat together at the negotiating table. It is clear that direct talks are more effective and result in speedy outcomes. They prevent misunderstandings. It is only for this reason that we insist on direct talks. Furthermore, from the very beginning of these talks the mission of the UN secretary general's envoy has been to prepare the grounds for direct talks between both sides. In fact, the advances which have been made so far during the indirect talks and/or the preparatory talks has resulted from the flexibility of the DRA side. On the other hand, it should be stated that if one partner at the talks is not prepared for direct talks, how can it be believed that that side is really in favor of a political solution and the normalization of relations? Direct talks, while being the best way for negotiations, are also the yard-stick of sincerity.

[Question] Why has your side remained silent about a fixed date or period for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, whereas, according to reports, it was said in 1983 that the Soviet Union was ready to withdraw its forces within a period of 18 months, provided guarantees were given on the nonresumption of interference?
[Answer] Our stand and that of the Soviet Union on this regard is clear. As far as we know, the Soviet Union has never said such a thing. It is a known fact that the invitation to the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union to come to the DRA was due to armed interference and other kinds of intervention in the internal affairs of the DRA. This interference is the main reason for the present tense situation around Afghanistan. When the cause is eliminated, then the grounds for the elimination of its effect will also be provided. The DRA Government has announced several times that whenever interference ceases and guarantees for its cessation and nonresumption are given, it will initiate negotiations concerning the return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union with the government of that country.

[Question] In an interview which Cordovez recently gave to the daily *THE MUSLIM*, it was said that something happened during April and June of 1983 as a result of which, due to the prevailing conditions of the time, the dynamism which had been created during April 1983 vanished in June 1983. Do you agree with this opinion? And if you agree, then could you tell us if there was a real possibility for the solution of the question in 1983; and in your opinion, what created this obstacle, when was it created, and why?

[Answer] With regard to what Mr Cordovez told you or someone else, we have no information and therefore we cannot express an opinion on this.

[Question] Some people in Pakistan believe that it is mainly your regime which does not want, under the present conditions, to solve the question and this is because if, as a result of a political solution, the Red Army withdraws from Afghanistan, your regime will collapse because it does not have the support of the people. Please shed some light on this point.
[Answer] I do not know whom you mean by some people in Pakistan. As far as we know, the majority of people of Pakistan resolutely desire a political solution to the questions through direct talks and believe in the sincerity of the DRA. On the other hand, it should be stated that it is the Governments of Pakistan, the United States, China, and some of their collaborators who, by continuing and intensifying interference in the domestic affairs of the DRA, are preventing a political solution. The U.S. authorities have stated several times that they want to keep the Soviet Union engaged in Afghanistan. And the Pakistani authorities too, in order to get more and more material and military assistance, have not shown an inclination for a speedy solution to the questions.

On the contrary, the DRA has not spared any effort to achieve a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. It was Afghanistan which, by issuing the declarations of 14 May, 1980 and 24 August, 1981, took the first step toward finding a political solution and put forward specific proposals for this purpose. In the process of talks too, it has been Afghanistan which has presented specific proposals with the necessary flexibility for the progress of talks.

In connection with the support of the people, it should be stated that the present regime came to power as a result of a revolution. The PDPA, even before the revolution, as the reflector of the true interests of the absolute majority in Afghanistan and enjoyed sufficient popularity among the people. During the period of the monarchy, in addition to utilizing various forms of struggle, it also had representatives inside Parliament who always defended the rights of the people. The source of our power is the will of our people and our struggle is to defend their lofty interests. Our state is a popular, democratic, and peace-loving state. Proof of this is the convocation of the historic grand assembly of the people of Afghanistan and the high assembly of tribes who represented all tribes, nationalities, and strata of society and affirmed and supported the internal and external policy of the DRA and the PDPA.

Also, the elections to the local organs of state power and administration, which took place in a free and democratic atmosphere -- the likes of which has never before been seen in our country's history -- is also a demonstration of the popularity of our regime.

[Question] There is also another opinion, that your position has become harder and you are no longer interested in a political solution. An example in this regard that should be cited is the warning of Soviet leader Gorbachev during his Moscow meeting with President Ziaul Haq in March 1985 and the continuous attacks and border interferences by Afgnanistan against Pakistani territory. What is your opinion in this connection?

[Answer] As far as we are concerned, both in theory and in action we have wanted and we want a political solution, but the other side has prevented this under various pretexts. Our armed forces have not engaged in aggression against any country and we have not, and will not, allow others to commit aggression against the DRA. Facts show that it is the Pakistani Army and militia who have been, and are engaged in continuous attacks and aggression against the territory of the DRA.

The ruling military circles of Pakistan, despite the unshakeable will and demands of the people of Pakistan, consistently fan tension in relations between our countries in order to achieve their greedy interests. However, we believe that these circles will sooner or later bow to the powerful demands of the fraternal people of Pakistan for the normalization of relations with the DRA. The courageous and free-born people of Afghanistan, who are fighting for prosperity and progress and to maintain lasting peace in our country, in the region, and in the world never forget the prosperity, well-being, and progress of other peoples, including the fraternal people of Pakistan with whom they have common and inseparable historical and religious ties. We wish the best of success to the fraternal people of Pakistan and hope they will be able to determine their destiny in accordance to their own wishes and will.

[Question] Are you prepared to accept as an article of [word indistinct] the solution of the question that, at some point, personalities such as Zaher Shah, Abdorrahman Pazhwak, and some other moderate elements among the guerrilla groups in Peshawar to join your government?
[Answer] Such things are not included in the talks and are not relevant. Such things will never be discussed. Such individuals are among the black-hearted people condemned by history in our country as responsible for many misfortunes of our people. They have been rejected by the revolution and by our society, and our people do not accept them any more.

[Question] How do you assess the role of Iran in relation to the question of Afghanistan? Iran is just as much against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as it is opposed to the military presence of the United States in the region.
[Answer] Unfortunately, Iran's role in connection with the situation around Afghanistan is extremely aggressive and interventionist, nor has Iran shown any readiness so far to take part in the talks in Geneva; it rejects them irresponsibly.

In connection with your last statement, it should be said that in principle the permanent military presence of the United States in our region, thousands of kilometers away from U.S. shores, has no aim but plunder and sway over the destiny of the peoples of the region. As a consequence, this has provided the main source of tension and aggression between peoples throughout the world. Whereas the Soviet Union, throughout its existence as a force of peace and the defender of freedom and independence of the peoples, has in practice proved the correctness of its peaceful and humane policy.

The timely internationalist and fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union to our country and people in repulsing and rebuffing foreign aggression arises from its humane and internationalist policy and is based on the strong legal pillars of the treaty of

friendship, good-neighborliness, and cooperation between the DRA and the Soviet Union, dated 5 December 1978, and is in accord with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

[Question] According to Pakistani official sources, a large number of refugees from your country have come to Pakistan during the last 2 months; the total number is 2,000. It has been said that this increase is five times the average flow of Afghan refugees into Pakistan. Is this increase due to the more severe battles in Paktia Province, in particular in Khowst? Do you think that the Afghan guerrillas have been equipped with better modern lethal weapons?
[Answer] Experience has shown that, whenever the enemies of our free-born peoples' order and tranquility, that is, the bandits exported from abroad, are faced with shameful defeats by the vigilant security forces of our country, the official sources in Pakistan and other organisers of the undeclared war, from Washington all the way to Beijing, Paris, London, Bonn, and the like, raise fabricated hues and crys on one hand to hide the defeat of their lackeys, and on the other hand to discredit the heroic operations of our armed forces. In the mopping up operations carried out by our valiant security forces in the vicinity of Khowst Major District, crushing and deadly blows were dealt to Pakistani militia. The organizers of the undeclared war against the DRA, in particular the direct commander of this war, the United States, increasingly put at the disposal of the counterrevolutionary bandits stationed in Pakistan ever more advanced and modern weapons. However, this exported counterrevolution from abroad is being continuously isolated among our people and their antipopular essence and criminal and inhuman deeds have been revealed, therefore, imperialism can no longer put into practice its ominous plots through dispatching more modern weapons to them and the other foreign mercenaries.

Concerning the rumors of a supposed increased in the number of the refugees, I must state that this is also one of the falsifications constituting the soul of imperialist propaganda aimed at creating apprehension, fear, and intimidation among the deceived Afghans. On the contrary, the facts and figures indicate that the deceived people are availing themselves of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium's general amnesty and are continuously returning to their revolutionary country. Particularly after the successful convocation of the national and historical grand assembly of the people of Afghanistan, the beginning of the elections for local organs of state power and administration, and the convocation of the grand assembly of border tribes, a considerable increase has taken place in the number of our deceived compatriots returning to their homeland after the realization of the righteousness of the April Revolution. The imperialist propaganda smokescreen aimed at hiding the present realities of our society is gradually fading away. Ever greater numbers of deceived people are returning to their fatherland in order to escape the humiliating and inhuman living conditions in the misery-stricken camps under the Pakistani military regime, and compensating for their mistakes, are taking an active part in the construction of a strong and progressive Afghanistan. You yourself know that the Pakistani military regime collects huge benefits by magnifying the number of deceived Afghans. I believe that by now this false propaganda has totally lost its effectiveness in deceiving the Afghans and has turned into a source of scandal for the Pakistani military regime.

[Question] There are said to be several hundred Pashtun and Baluch students from Pakistan going to Afghanistan for ideological indoctrination and military training. Linked with your support for Wali Khan Kukikhel, is your country trying to foment troubles in Pakistan as it tried to do in the past through the Zuiifqar Group?
[Answer] By referring to the principles of the foreign policy of the DRA and their practice, you can clearly find that peaceful coexistence forms the first principle of our state's foreign policy. We have never interfered in the internal affairs of others and do not allow anybody to interfere in ours. No military training has been given nor is any being given to any alien individual in the DRA. Concerning the provision of educational opportunities in various fields of science and technology to the youth of Pashtun and Baluch tribes, it should be said that implementing cultural programs and promoting the culture of all fraternal tribes and nationalities of Afghanistan constitute one of the main objectives of the DRA. In the framework of these programs, the Pashtun and Baluch youths cannot be considered an exception. After the victory of the revolution, as genuine equalities have been ensured in the other spheres of social life, i.e. in economic, political and cultural spheres, the same policy is also pursued in the sphere of higher and vocational education.

The doors of our universities and other educational and cultural establishments are wide open to all the country's nationalities, tribes, and clans, including the Pashtun and Baluch brohters, and educational opportunities are provided to them according to their own choice.

The aggression and intervention by the Islamabad militarists being waged at the instigation and encouragement of the U.S. imperialisms against the traditions and customs of the tribes, the concentration of the armed Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, and the establishment of military training centers in the tribal areas has and is making life increasingly more difficult for the free Pashtun and Baluch brothers. Such actions earn the deep indignation and resentment of the tribal people, but this has led to the further unremitting solidarity of the nationalities, tribes, and clans of our free and independent homeland, the DRA. You can clearly notice the unshakeable solidarity which is based on the historical, national, and traditional interests of the tribes and has been reflected in the decisions of the historical grand assembly of the people of Afghanistan and in the Grand Assembly of border tribes. This solidarity cannot be distorted under the name of creating difficulties.

In reality, it is the Pakistani military regime and the counterrevolutionary bands who sow seeds of discord among the tribes, limit their freedom, and disrespect their traditions, causing their ever-increasing serious and decisive confrontations with the regime. We can never remain indifferent to the destiny of our Pashtun and Baluch brothers who have become victims of severe brutality and merciless oppression by the Islamabad militarists. We are approaching this issue in conformity with the common historical and national characteristics of the peoples and the cause of peace and independence.

The Al-Zulfikar Group is a Pakistani group. What they have done and are doing in response to the Pakistani militarist regime's policies are products of its own policy and the existing conditions in Pakistan. The responsibility for the consequences of the present Pakistani regime's policies should not be put on others. The difficulties the Pakistani present regime faces are the outcome of the policy pursued at the state level. As our people say: One should not blame his mistakes on others. Nevertheless it is not only our brother Wali Khan Kukikhel alone who fights against the Pakistani ruling regime.

[Question] Is it right in your opinion to question Pakistan's sincerity in settling the Afghan issue given the fact that it is pursuing political negotiations despite opposition from our closest friends?
[Answer] For us the criterion for the Pakistani authorities' sincerity lies in their action. Regarding the opposition of the so-called friends of Pakistan, it must be said that the Pakistani Government should act in accordance with the lofty interests of the Pakistani people.

The best option for solving the situation regarding Afghanistan is direct talks. This is something which the peoples of both countries are in favor of. Meanwhile, the sincerity of both sides can only be proven during the course of direct talks.

In our view, finding a political solution is possible and what can help this is goodwill, political will, and sincerity. So far as we are concerned, I would like once again to assure the people of Pakistan that we are in favor of normal and ever friendly relations with Pakistan and other neighbors on the basis of the principles of noninterference in each others internal affairs, respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity, good-neighborliness, and mutually beneficial cooperation.

[Question] How much of the real responsibility for events leading to December 1979 lies with outside factors and to what extent on your own party infighting, particularly Hafizullah Amin's policies?

[Answer] If, by mentioning the December events you mean the victorious uprising of 27 December 1979 which came about as a result of the decisive struggles of the sound and principled forces of the PDPA and according to the will of the free-born people of Afghanistan, it should be stated that this victorious uprising is a great and historic honor for the people of Afghanistan, which was achieved under the leadership of their political vanguard party, the PDPA. This uprising put an end once and for ever to all the conspiracies, betrayals, and deviations in the process of the national democratic April Revolution and placed the revolution on its principled course.

But, if by mentioning the December events you are referring to the USSR's timely military assistance — which was given in response to the requests from the legitimate DRA Government to our people in repulsing the foreign aggressors — I would like once again to point out that it was because of this fraternal help from our people's great and historic friend that the territorial integrity, independence, and national sovereignty of revolutionary Afghanistan were saved from the danger of annihilation and the dangerous aggressive and separatist schemes of the enemies of the homeland, the revolution, and people, and were doomed to failure.

The need to invite the limited USSR military contingents stemmed from the intensification of organized foreign aggression and interference, mainly taking place from Pakistani territory against our country. All realist peace-loving forces and those supporting the elimination of tension know quite well that the limited USSR military contingents were invited to the DRA on the basis of the Treaty of Friendship, Good-neighborliness, and Cooperation concluded between the DRA and the USSR and in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter only for repulsing foreign aggression. Their presence in our territory has not and will not pose any danger to any country.

The tense situation prevailing around Afghanistan and in the region, is the result of the shameless interferences from reaction and imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism and hegemonism. And there is no other justification for it.

[Question] Your's is a Marxist-Leninist party. Can it hope to impose this ideology on a society which is extremely religious and conservative? How are you avoiding the blunders committed by your predecessors like Taraki and Amin?
[Answer] Our party — the PDPA — being a new type of party of the working class and all toilers of the country, is the party of Afghan patriots, the guardians of the homeland; the party of the guardians of the national well-being of the homeland and national independence of Afghanistan; the sincere servant party of the people and our united homeland — new revolutionary Afghanistan; the party responsive to the interests of all nationalities, tribes and, clans in the country; a sincere internationalist party and the party which is leading society toward social progress; the party that played a significant role in overthrowing the bastion of monarchical and feudal despotism; and the party which brought the April Revolution to victory and to a new stage of development.

At present our party is fighting selflessly in the forefront of the struggle, defending the homeland and revolution against the undeclared war of reaction and imperialism, headed by the U.S. imperialism. It is a party which has risen from among the people and is struggling for the realization of the people's lofty aspirations. It goes without saying that a party founded in conformity with the will and demands of the broad masses of the people and the historical requirements of the country, a party which is deeply rooted in the society, always respects the will and determination of its people and is never interested in imposing any program that may not conform to the aspiration of the masses. Being deeply convinced of this principle, our ideology, inspired by the will of the workers and all toilers of the country and which was clearly reflected with the victory of the April Revolution in the framework of the establishment of the new revolutionary system in the country, always seriously observes and respects the people's beliefs in addition to the fact that it does not contravene them.

As I explained previously in different words, how can the struggles of our people under the PDPA leadership, which resulted in the victory of the April Revolution — itself the best manifestation of the prideful struggle of our people — contradict their beliefs.

The fact is that the victory of the April Revolution, particularly its new state of development led by our party, ensured the genuine freedom of our people in all spheres for the first time. For example, the religious practices of all sects are freely performed with all-round state support; whereas under the shadow of the separatist policies of past regimes, discrimination, and inequality was dominent in this sphere as in other spheres. Examples of such descriminatory approach against the nationalities and religions are clearly evident in the attitudes of the ruling reactionary regimes of the region. Despite the hostile propaganda of reaction and imperialism, one of the main slogans of which is "Islam is in Danger in Afghanistan," our toiling people see for themselves in the action of the revolutionary power high respect for their beliefs and laudible traditions. It can be confidently stated that the observance and respect being paid by the revolutionary rule to the sacred religion of Islam in our country is unprecedented in the course of the history of our homeland.

In connection with the other part of your question, it should be stated that undoubtedly elements of the decadent phenomenon are contradicting our innovative revolutionary programs. However, this contradiction should be sought in the structure of the old society, class, and strata which contradicted the soul of the revolution, and not the masses of the people who enjoy the widest and deepest common objective interests in the revolution and the masses for whose interests and whose support the revolution has triumphed. Looking at the revolutionary process in our country clearly reaffirms this fact.

Regarding the blunders, betrayals, and plots of Hafizollah Amin which took place during the first stage of the revolution, it should be stated that an end was put to mistakes, adventurism, subjectivism, and ignoring the evolutionary course of the new development stage of the revolution for once and for all. Being placed on its principled course, the national democratic April Revolution, avoiding haste and pausing over the necessary phases of the development of society, decisively and persistently pursues its objectives in the interests of the masses. I hope you feel at ease by now.

[Question] Speaking hypothetically, if everything is settled and the Afghans are allowed to seek their own national destiny, what sort of Afghanistan can we look forward to in 5-10 years time? What particular model of socioeconomic development do you see it following?
[Answer] It surprises me that you should raise such a question. In your opinion how many times should the people of Afghanistan determine their national destiny? Besides, didn't the revolution which triumphed in our country determine the destiny of our people? The reality is that the free-born people of Afghanistan, with the victory of the April revolution, decisively determined their national destiny once and for all and by having a popular state at their service, embodied in the framework of the DRA, are daily meeting their long cherished aspirations and are forging ahead successfully toward the fundamental transformations, social progress, and prosperity of their society.

Just as the April Revolution was realized on the basis of the will of the Afghan people and is being defended with the will of our courageous toiling people, the solution to the situation facing Afghanistan can also be solved based on the will of our people in harmony with the will of the peace-loving people of the neighboring countries of Iran and Pakistan. There can be no hypothesis, doubts, and illusion in this regard. The historic decisions of the grand assembly of the people of Afghanistan and the grand assembly of the border tribes and the tribal assemblies of the people's representatives in the localities are all democratic establishments through which the unity of will of the party, state, and our people has been manifested and reaffirms our bright future.

In order to reach the high peaks of victory in building a new Afghanistan, we are not following any model and are acting on the basis of the wishes and will of our people, the objective conditions of Afghan society, and the defense of the cause of peace and international security. Despite the temporary difficulties caused by the undeclared war by reaction and imperialism, we are ensuring the well-being and true prosperity of our society and people.

Maoist Group Captured, Confessions To Be Broadcast

LD171948 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Our country's security forces are continuously engaged in discovering, crushing, or capturing counterrevolutionary bands and revealing the sinister conspiracies of these so-called organizations and groups engaged in anti-people and counterrevolutionary activities.

Citing a security forces' source, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the nucleus of the Maoist organization, the so-called Akhgar group, has, like other sections of its network, been captured by our security forces. They confessed to their crimes of terrorism, subversion, murder, intimidation, and penalizing innocent people. They were also engaged in false antistate and counterrevolutionary propaganda, thus creating an atmosphere of fear and anxiety.

The full confessions of these lunatics will be broadcast by Radio Afghanistan.

SPA: Afghan Mujahidin Down Soviet Plane 5 Oct

GF171406 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1305 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] London, 17 Oct (SPA) — The Afghan Mujahidin downed a Soviet plane on a reconnaisance mission near the village of Panjwai in Qandahar Province on 5 October. The pilot and crew members were killed.

The Islamic AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY reported that the invading Soviet forces dispatched armored units to the spot from which the mujahidin fired at the plane. The mujahidin managed to encircle these forces and shell them with missiles. The attack resulted in the destruction of one tank. The agency added that losses in lives were not known.

Congress Party Members Walk Out of Punjab Assembly

HK170844 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 16 (AFP) — All legislators of India's ruling Congress (I) Party reportedly walked out of Punjab State Assembly, in what analysts said today was the first sign of tension between them and Sikh moderates since elections last month.

The walk-out yesterday was in protest against condolences offered by Sikh Akali Dal Party members to relatives of Sikhs killed last year in clashes with troops, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

The protest came as a Congress (I) official was murdered at Tarn Taran in Punjab.

PTI said Sikh policeman Pratap Singh was arrested today for the murder of Hindu Ram Lubhaya yesterday, the first killing by suspected Sikh militants since the elections.

Some 650 people, mostly Sikhs, were killed in June last year when the army stormed Sikhism's Golden Temple in Amritsar, which separatist Sikhs had fortified.

PTI said Congress (I) house leader Gurbinder Kaur Brar objected to the obituary reference to Sikh separatists and ordered all 31 Congress (I) members to walk out.

The moderate Akali Dal Party took power in the sensitive state bordering Pakistan by winning 73 seats in the 117-member house in last month's elections.

The Akali Dal state government did however also pay tribute to former Indian premier and Congress (I) leader Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in October last year allegedly by Sikh gunmen avenging the Golden Temple attack.

Indian commentators today said that the Congress (I) walkout would undermine an atmosphere of conciliation generated by an agreement in July between Sikh moderates and the federal government.

The moderates called off a violent campaign for more autonomy for the state following the accord, but militants seeking independence denounced it as a sell-out.

Congress (I) also objected that no condolences were offered to relatives of people killed by militants over the past few years, PTI said.

Some analysts said Congress (I)'s central leadership might advise against similar walkouts in the future to preserve good relations with the Akali Dal and added that Sikh moderates also did not want relations to sour.

Official Holds Talks With Wu Xueqian in Beijing

BK171403 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] The secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Dr Teja, now in Beijing, had a meeting with the Chinese foreign minister. The meeting, which lasted 40 minutes, was held in a cordial atmosphere. According to an official spokesman, they discussed India-China relations, particularly the Indian Embassy property question. The spokesman said some progress has been made for resolving the issue.

Dr Teja is scheduled to have another round of talks with the Chinese foreign minister.

Paper Reports Progress in Talks

HK180712 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 18 Oct 85

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 18 (AFP) — China and India have made "some progress" in resolving differences over Indian Government property in China during talks between officials of the two countries in Beijing yesterday, it was reported today.

The Indian team, led by secretary in the Foreign Ministry Dr. J.S. Teja, met Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian to discuss the issue which stems back to the height of the Chinese Cultural Revolution two decades ago, the daily *PATRIOT* said, quoting a Foreign Office spokesman.

The Indian property was either seized by the Chinese Government or damaged during attacks by militant students.

India has been demanding compensation for the properties damaged or seized during the Cultural Revolution and ensuing radical period (1966-76).

During his talks with Mr. Wu, Dr. Teja also discussed other aspects of Sino-Indian relations, the paper said.

The two governments are scheduled to have their sixth round of talks on a long-standing border dispute in New Delhi from November 4 to 11.

Dr. Teja, who arrived in Beijing early this week, also had several rounds of talks with Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Qian Liushu, the *PATRIOT* said.

Report on Ziaul Haq Speech to National Assembly

BK171700 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has called upon the people's elected representatives to make all-out efforts to establish an Islamic system of government. He was addressing the National Assembly upon the invitation of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo today. The president hoped that in the second phase, after lifting martial law, the representatives will replace the democratic system with an Islamic system of government since Islamic values can be promoted only by establishing an Islamic system. He said that the elected representatives should make wholehearted efforts to establish the Islamic system of government as they did to restore democracy. The president assured the members of his cooperation in establishing an Islamic system as in the case of restoring democracy.

He thanked the National Assembly members for approving the Constitutional Eighth Amendment Bill and said that by striking a balance between powers of the president and the prime minister, dictatorship has been buried forever. He said that the National Assembly has carved a place for itself in history.

Analyzing the 1973 Constitution and the unanimous adoption of the Constitutional Eighth Amendment Bill, the president said that in 1973, the chief martial law administrator had pressed the National Assembly members to support continuation of martial law, while the present martial law administrator is congratulating the elected members for their help in lifting martial law. Referring to his August 1983 program to restore democracy, the president said that the current assembly, senate, and provincial assemblies have come into existence in a very peaceful and disciplined manner under that program. The program foiled the designs of the defunct political parties who tried to sabotage the program restoring democracy by boycotting it. In particular, he mentioned the role played by the frustrated element outside the assembly against the adoption of the Constitutional Eighth Amendment Bill. Rumors also circulated about the National Assembly being only a rubber stamp and the president being [words indistinct]. But the elected representatives have proved that they fully keep in view national unity and a practical constitution. The president said that by adopting constitutional amendments after incorporating their own amendments in them, the members, in fact, acknowledged his view that there was a need for amendments to the 1973 Constitution. He said that the 1973 Constitution was unbalanced and had to be amended according to the needs of the country.

The president expressed the hope that the National Assembly will continue to play a positive role and help establish an Islamic society which will enable us to deal effectively with all problems including bribery, nepotism, theft, murder, and subversive activities. Referring to the referendum which elected him president for 5 years, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that the wholehearted and clear-cut verdict of the people shows that they are willing to accelerate the process of Islamization. He mentioned various steps taken during the past 8 years for the Islamization of society and noted considerable progress in transforming various laws of the country to conform with Islamic tenets.

UN Envoy Raises Kashmir Self-Determination Issue

BK170620 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Oct 85

[Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has reaffirmed its support for the right to self-determination of nations and drawn the world body's attention to the unresolved question of Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the third committee of the General Assembly in New York last night, Pakistan's envoy, Mrs Shirin Moiz, said that Pakistan has always supported nations struggling to get rid of colonialism and foreign domination and achieve their right to self-determination. The Pakistani envoy presented two other examples — Afghanistan and Cambodia — where foreign military intervention has deprived the people of their right to self-determination. She said that more than 3 million Afghan people have taken shelter in Pakistan as a result of the attempt to crush the people's struggle by force. She said that the Afghan problem can be solved through implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly, Islamic Conference Organization, and Nonaligned Movement on the issue.

Soviet Ambassador Meets Opposition Leaders

GF180806 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 14 Oct 85 p 1

[Text] Mr Abdul-Rakhman Khalil Ogly Verizov, the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, met Pir Pagaro and Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi this evening. This meeting took place at a party hosted by Pakistan People's Party leader Abid Zuberi. His talks with Pir Pagaro were of an important nature and revolved around Pakistani and international affairs. He told Mustafa Jatoi to meet with him whenever he comes to Islamabad. At the reception, the Soviet ambassador said that Soviet Muslims enjoy complete freedom in following their religion and traditional practices and said that he was amazed at Pakistans' impressions about Soviet Muslims.

Decree Confers Premiership on Musavi-Khamene'i
LD171312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Decree Issued by President 'Ali Khamene'i on 17 October conferring premiership upon Mir-Hoseyn Musavi]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Mir-Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i. In view of the esteemed Islamic Consultative Assembly's vote of confidence on 13 october, in accordance with Principle 124 of the Constitution, this decree of premiership is issued in your name.

Under the country's present sensitive conditions, when the Islamic Republic is embroiled in a 5-year-old imposed war, and when various reasons have caused economic and productive shortcomings and intense administrative weaknesses and cultural difficulties, there is need for a lofty resolve; limitless reliance [upon God]; incessant efforts; and committed, sincere, and capable colleagues so that the revolution and the people's needs and expectations are satisfied in this Republic's new era and when full use is made of the peoples' great and unending power who, as a blessing from Islam, are prepared for self-sacrifice on the path of the revolution's aspirations.

Your Excellency, who has been honored with this weighty responsibility as the result of the blessings of the decisive endorsement of his eminence the imam, may his shadow long continue, and the support of a large number of the representatives of the people in the Islamic Consultative Assembly must, with correct plans on the basis of fundamental policies, backed by brave endeavours, free from pretence and publicity, implement the government's goals which have been enunciated in the president's oath of office.

The first condition for success is the formation of a cabinet composed of individuals endowed with commitment and capability in keeping with the requirements of the age and who, free from factionalism, engage in sincere efforts. By winning the confidence of the esteemed Majlis as well as by reassuring the various strata of the people and attracting their all-out participation, and especially those capabilities accentuated by the revolution, it is necessary to take basic steps in the administration of the country's affairs and in the construction and the implementation of the Constitution's goals.

I beseech Almighty God for your guidance and success in this grave responsibility; and I expect His Grace and Mercy to enable you to act in a way that meets with God's satisfaction and which is in the interest of Muslims.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president.

Khameme'i: Iran Example of Third World Sovereignty
GF170634 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, yesterday told a number of commanders [words indistinct] in the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran that Iran's situation is not that of a country suffering war. He said that today Iran has become an example of the sovereignty of Third World countries vis-a-vis the great powers.

Khamene'i added that the pressures placed on the people by East and West and the great powers since the Second World War have taught the countries of the world that their life is threatened by subservience and that today the conflict revolves around who will rule Latin America or Africa — the Soviets or the Americans.

The president said that the Islamic revolution is the only independent movement in the world in its true concept. He added that the Americans look upon us with ill will in all matters, except with regard to subservience to the Soviets. The Russians also look upon us with ill will in all matters, except with regard to subservience to the United States; this indicates our real sovereignty, he said.

Khamene'i said: Today, during the war imposed on the Islamic revolution by the ruling regime in Iraq, the Iranian people are defending this truth.

Khamene'i: Oil Exports Flowing, France Criticized
LD172057 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Thursday that Iran was capable of exporting oil even more than its OPEC share.

The president said slight problems in oil exports from the Khark Island have been overcome, and Iran was capable of exporting more than four million barrels of oil daily.

He said that Iran's Navy will continue inspecting ships suspected of carrying military hardware for Iraq.

Speaking to commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, the president said that Iran cannot watch the enemy receive military hardware through Iranian waterways.

President Khamene'i also said that France was trying to maintain the ruling regime in Iraq in order to take back its multi-million dollar loans from the Baghdad regime.

The president said if the French Government stopped its aid to Iraq, Muslim people there might repay parts of the French loans after they have toppled Saddam's regime. "Otherwise all French investments in Iraq would be lost" he said.

Khamene'i: Searching of Ships Will Continue
GF180532 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Oct 85

[Text] During a meeting of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Command Council in Zanjan Province yesterday, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i stressed the need to search any ship in the Strait of Hormuz that carries cargo which is liable to strenghten the Iraqi military. He also said: Our oil exports are going on as usual and we can export 4 million oil barrels per day.

The president decribed the analyses by international arrogance regarding issues pertaining to the Islamic revolution today as contradictory. He said: Since the Islamic revolution depends on the faith of its million-strong masses, resistance remains the only way to confront the conspiracies of the Iraqi regime and its defenders.

Khamene'i Receives SAIRI Representatives
LD172051 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — The head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Mahmud Hashemi and the spokesman for SAIRI, Hojjat ol-eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim met President 'Ali Khamene'i here Thursday.

At the meeting, the president was briefed on the fifth round of the [words indistinct] that ended recently and the overseas trips of SAIRI officials as well as the activities of Iraqi Muslim Kurds.

The report covered cooperation of the Iraqi Muslim combatants with Iranian fighters in the imposed Iraqi war which has led to liberation of vast areas inside Iraq.

The president said that SAIDI had a bright future and that it should mobilize its revolutionary and experienced forces to fight Saddam's regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Asks Cooperation on Cabinet
LD172101 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct, 17, IRNA — Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani called Thursday on the president and the prime minister to cooperate with each other in appointing a cabinet.

Speaking in the open session of the Majlis, Rafsanjani said we ask of the prime minister, the president and the (Majlis) Deputies to cooperate in friendship to form a cabinet as quickly as possible as Imam Khomeyni has asked.

Imam Khomeyni the leader of the Islamic revolution Wednesday called for an end to discussions on the formation of the cabinet and said the Majlis deputies should limit their criticisms of the government and rather cooperate with it.

Rafsanjani said the imam has approved of constructive criticism and it was the duty of the Majlis deputies to expressed their views.

Rafsanjani said imam's advice was significant in keeping unity between the Islamic forces and those whose unity was of significant for the country and the revolution.

Majlis Session Held, Press Law Article Approved
LD171924 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, oct 17, IRNA — The Majlis debated and approved Article One of the Press Law and rejected a bill for the formation of a council for Islamic propagation, in its open session here Thursday.

The Press Law comprises ten articles, out of which Article One dealing with publications in the field of religion, culture, science, technology, economics, agriculture, etc, was passed. The remaining nine articles would be discussed in the next session.

The nomination for Hojjat ol-eslam Ahmad Khajavi for the post of auditor general, was postponed until the next session, due to lack of the required majority votes in his favour.

The session also heard the report of the questions committee regarding questions put forward to 10 ministers.

At the start of the session, Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his opening address, emphasised the imam's speech Wednesday, concerning the early election of the new cabinet.

The Majlis speaker also spoke about Islamic ethics and the way the Islamic Republic officials should behave. He warned against impeding of work in government offices, saying "it is a capital sin in Islam".

Hojjat Ol-eslam Rahbari Amlashi the Rudbar deputy, urged the new cabinet to solve the problem of inflation and unemployment.

On the agricultural situation he said, that out of 50 million hectares of arable land only 9 million was under cultivation, but thanks to the efforts of our Muslim Nation the margin of cultivated land has increased to 50 percent.

Regarding the Afghan refugees, he regretted that Afghani Hezbollahi offices have been closed in some parts of Iran. He reminded the officials that the misconduct of a minority of Afghans is not the criteria to judge all of them alike.

He added that since the constitution of our country is based on Islam, this sort of treatment of the Afghan Muslims violates our policy of support for the oppressed and deprived masses of the world.

Moreover the Afghans are fighting singlehandedly against a super power encroaching upon the rights of a Muslim people and have taken refuge here for the cause of Islam, he said.

The session adjourned at noon and the next open session is to be held next week on Sunday.

Jannati: Iran Respects Lebanese Majority's Views
LD171034 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Damascus, Oct. 17, IRNA — The head of the Islamic propagation organization, Ayatollah Mohammad Jannati, currently heading a delegation to Lebanon, said here Wednesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran respects aspirations of the majority of Lebanese people. In view of Iran, a government in Lebanon should meet rights and needs of the majority, he added.

Ayatollah Jannati who was speaking in an interview with the radio Sawt-Al Mustaz'afin on the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning recent negotiations to find a solution to the crisis in Lebanon, said that he did not think that such moves would be successful. Furthermore, he added, big powers do not like to see the situation in Lebanon return to normal.

The only solution to the problem, he added, would be accepting realities and that meant establishing a government on the basis of aspirations of the majority of the population.

The Iranian delegation made up of representatives of Majlis, the Red Crescent Society and the Islamic propagation Organisation, left for Lebanon last Sunday and visited the City of Tripoli Wednesday.

Ayatollah Jannati said that the situation in Tripoli following bloodshed between warring groups was disappointing. He added that Iran will help rebuilding of the mosques, schools and probably houses which have been destroyed in the course of the fighting in the city. Furthermore, the Iranian Red Crescent Society has sent medicine and foodstuff to the people of Tripoli.

Iranian Charge to Lebanon Interviewed by Paper

NC151143 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 14-20 Oct 85 pp 23-25

[Interview with Mahmud Nurani, Iranian charge d'affaires in Lebanon, by Nadim Abu-Ghannam; date and place not given]

[Text] [Abu-Ghannam] Have the Iranian mediation efforts to stop the battles in Tripoli completely succeeded, and what guarantees that the ceasefire will be more than a simple truce?
[Nurani] The Iranian mediation efforts are continuing, and a new delegation is scheduled to come during this or the following week to help the people in Tripoli and back the previous mediation efforts.

The new delegation will naturally focus its attention on helping those who have been displaced or otherwise harmed by this internal war.

As to the second part of your question, dealing with a truce or genuine ceasefire, I believe this concerns the parties who kindled and engaged in the war. We, and all parties involved in the Tripoli war, are focussing our efforts on directing guns against the Israeli enemy. We do not think there will be another war in Tripoli, or in any other region.

However, should we continue in this manner, by trying to strengthen our strongholds in the Lebanese regions or to gain new positions then the war in Tripoli is bound to flare up again.

We were very sorry to see our Arab brethren and their organizations especially in the Islamic countries, take no position concerning the Tripoli events. But thank God, the positions taken by the Islamic republic and the Iranian government had practical results in that they stopped this internal war for the sake of the welfare of the Moslems.

[Abu-Ghannam] Should battles erupt again in Tripoli, will Iran help Towhid?
[Nurani] Our position would be similar to that in the previous battle, meaning that we will have a joint stand with sisterly Syria and Shaykh Sayd Sha'ban (leader of Towhid), and we will once again work on uniting the Islamic and national ranks against the Israeli enemy.

[Abu-Ghannam] Sha'ban told *MONDAY MORNING* he wanted the Islamization of the world, and not just Lebanon. How would you comment on this statement?
[Nurani] No doubt this is the personal opinion of Shaykh Sayd whom we respect. We also have our opinion, and based on the Islamic principles and the teachings of the prophet we consider it our duty to spread the Islamic culture and religion, and call on all people to adopt this religion and become Muslims. However, there will be no oppression of the peoples who do not follow our beliefs. It is our duty to spread the Muslim culture and religion, but we will not force anyone to accept them.

[Abu-Ghannam] You have successfully contributed to the ceasefire in Tripoli. Should you be asked to contribute to the release of the Soviet and American hostages, would you do anything?
[Nurani] Based on our Islamic principles, we condemn all kidnappings, and not only the detention of Soviet diplomats. The problem of kidnapping and terrorism prevails throughout the world, and is particularly conspicous in Lebanon where the Iranian charge d'affaires and two Iranian diplomats were kidnapped three years ago. Until now, we have absolutely no word about them, and their families are still waiting for them. I would like to assure you that we call for and try to secure the release of all the kidnap victims, and not only the Soviet diplomats or our own Iranian diplomats who have been imprisoned for three years now. We want the release of all the kidnapped, since they are all victims.

[Abu-Ghannam] How do you evaluate the Syrio-Iranian relationship?
[Nurani] Our relationship with sisterly Syria is clear. We have high level strategic relations on all levels, and in all fields.

[Abu-Ghannam] Do you think the Iran-Iraq war is on the agenda of the superpower talks?
[Nurani] We do not have precise information about the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting, but the Iran-Iraq war will probably be on their agenda. As a result of these talks, we expect the American faction to exert more pressure on Iran to accept the imposed peace suggested by Iraq and the reactionary Arab organizations.

[Abu-Ghannam] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that if Iranian oil exports are stopped, Iran will have to close the Strait of Hormuz. In light of this, do you expect the Iran-Iraq war to spread?
[Nurani] I think it is obvious that, with the closure of the strait, an international crisis will ensue. But I wonder why those who fear this crisis and the spreading of the war still support Iraq financially and by supplying it with weapons that hit Khark Island and its economic installations and force us to put pressure on the organizations that help Iraq, by closing the Strait of Hormuz.

[Abu-Ghannam] How long will the Iran-Iraq war last, and will its continuation not lead to the collapse of both countries?
[Nurani] The war will continue till Iran obtains its demands. We refuse all peace solutions that are imposed upon us by force. The Iranian conditions are clear and have been stated more than once. We want the overthrow of the Iraqi regime, and we insist on this demand because as long as this regime is in power, there are no guarantees that it or the other organizations that oppose the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic will not renew their assaults. This we will answer adequately, though I would like to make it clear that we do not like war and bloodshed.

As to your question about the collapse of both countries in case the war continues, I would like to explain that if the war stops and we accept the suggested conditions and imposed peace, only the Islamic revolution and the morale of the Islamic revolutionaries will collapse. If we accept imposed peace, the Iranian revolution and the Iranian republic will collapse, and the loss will be unilateral.

[Abu Ghannam] Political analysts say the superpowers want the Iran-Iraq war to continue in order to bring about the economic collapse of Iran, Iraq and the Gulf in general. What is your comment?
[Nurani] We agree with this opinion because this war is a war of attrition that is squandering all economic reserves that would otherwise be put at the disposal of the higher Islamic interests. Our capacities are being squandered but thanks to our people and their steadastness we are working against what the other states are planning. They wanted this to be a war of attrition, but thanks to the Iranian people and the wisdom of the Iranian leadership, we have countered their expectations, for the benefit of the Islamic Republic, and we have changed the military balance. At the beginning of the war for example, Iraq was inside Iranian territory, but now we are in some Iraqi areas.

On the other hand, should the Islamic Republic end the war with Iraq, we are sure the international pride [as publsihed] will launch a new and different war in order to weaken the revolution and deprive it of its moral and spiritual foundations, as it is now bleeding it economically through the war with Iraq.

[Abu-Ghannam] It has been said after the visit of the Saudi foreign minister to Iran that the U.S. interfered and pressured Saudi Arabia into stopping all mediation efforts to stop the war. What is your comment?
[Nurani] The major reason behind the Saudi foreign minister's visit was the strengthening of bilateral relations, and talks between him and Iranian officials hardly touched on the Iran-Iraq war. This war was but a side issue.

[Abu-Ghannam] How would you evaluate the Iranian-Soviet relationship, and the Iranian-U.S. relationship?
[Nurani] Our relations with the Soviet Union are characterized by good neighborhood and strong economic ties that work for the benefit of both countries and peoples. Ours is not the relationship between a dominant and a dominated country.

As to the Iranian-U.S. relationship, this was a relationship of oppression and hegemony over an oppressed people prior to the Islamic revolution. The U.S. did not wish to establish relations that serve the interests of both countries. With the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, the degree of American interference in the decision-making of our people was obvious. The U.S. seeks to have hegemony over all organizations and states of the third world, and a good example of this is the Israeli raid on Tunis, which the U.S. supported, without any concern or respect for Arab or Isralic states.

As long as the U.S. insists on establishing relations that secure its hegemony and do not benefit both countries, we will suspend all relations with her.

Television To Transmit Via Satellite in Feb

GF171746 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Excerpts] A powerful television transmitter in Khvoy, located in the northern part of West Azarbayjan Province, started operation this morning in the presence of Mr Seyyed Mohammad Hashemi, member of the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the managing director of the organisation, Mr Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani; as well as the Khvoy Friday imam and the city's governor. During the inauguration ceremonies [words indistinct] in which other officials of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic participated, it was reported that the station, which began operation in 1974 with a 50-watt transmitter, could cover the districts of Palasht and Qareh Zia'od Din and villages around the region, as well as send its signal to the Siah Cheshme, Sadd-e Aras, and Maku booster stations.

In order to expand the area of coverage and increase the quality of reception in the northern part of West Azarbayjan, the construction of a new transmitter began in 1983 and was completed in 1984. Experts of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran then started installing equipment and with ceaseless efforts managed to bring the station into experimental operation on 11 February 1985. The station had a nominal power of 15 kw. Next to this powerful transmitter, which relays the first network of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a second 15-kw transmitter and an FM radio station to broadcast Majlis sessions and the national radio network also have been constructed, both of which will go into operation in the near future.

The managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran talked to the correspondent of the Central News Unit in Urumiyeh following the inauguration of two color television studios in the city. He said: By 11 February 1986, satellites will be used to transmit television audio and video signals.

Noting the coverage of the Azarbayjan region by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: Currently, shortwave transmitters cover a large part of the country and a major portion of the world. Ten new shortwave transmitters, the agreement on the construction of which has been signed, will further expand the area of coverage by the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: On the basis of current programs, the entire country will be covered by two television networks. However, since it is

not possible to achieve this by ground microwave stations, experts and engineers of the Voice and Vision designed a satellite system [as heard]. In carrying out the first phase of this plan, a satellite channel has been rented. The ground station for this and other associated work has been completed and, God willing, its experimental stage will be completed by late January and it will then start operation.

UAE Paper: U.S. Troops in Egypt Aided 'Hijacking'

LD171442 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — American military personnel stationed in Egypt were involved in last Friday's hijacking of the Egyptian plane carrying Palestinian freedom fighters, reported daily *AL-ITTIHAD* here Thursday.

Later U.S. war jets from the aircraft carrier *USS SARATOGA* intercepted the Egyptian Boeing airliner carrying Palestinian freedom fighters and diverted it to Italy where the Paletinians were arrested.

AL-ITTIHAD said the Americans went to Egypt at the personal request of the U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, carrying complex electronic devices to discover the route of Egyptian plane.

The American jets utilized the information to intercept the plane, reported *AL-ITTIHAD*.

Armed Palestinians seized an Italian luxury liner, the *Achille Lauro*, on October 7, with an estimated 420 people on board as it steamed between the Egyptian ports of Alexandria and Port Said.

The Palestinians demanded Israel release about 50 of their comrades.

Tehran Reports Iraqi Revolutionaries Operations

GF161541 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Oct 85

[Text] During a chain of operations, Iraqi muslim revolutionaries attacked a number of installations in the cities of Hama Musa, Dukan, (Bundard), and Kusa in northern Iraq. They inflicted great damage on these installations. IRNA report said that the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries infiltrated into the cities of Rawanduz and Al-Sulaymaniyah and controlled the Al-Sulaymaniyah hospital. They killed or captured a number of members of the 'Aflaqi regime ruling in Iraq.

Iraqi Kurds Kill Soldiers, Destroy Generator

LD180913 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 18 Oct 85

[Text] According to an IRNA report, Iraqi Kurdish Muslim revolutionaries carrying out a series of infiltration and ambush operations in Sulaymaniyah. Dahuk, Bingird, (Garkah) and [name indistinct] in the last few days, have killed at least 10 troops of the Iraqi regime and captured a number of the same. During these operations the power generator in Bingird district was destroyed by the Muslim revolutionaries.

Esfahan Steel Mills Repaired, in Production

LD162306 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 16 Oct 85

[Text] Esfahan, Oct. 16, IRNA — Over 430,000 tons of steel has been produced in two steel rolling factories of the Esfahan steel mills during the first half of the current Iranian year starting March 21.

The company is scheduled to produce 1.6 million tons of melted cast iron and 1.1 million tons of bar steel during the current year.

A company official said the personnel of the company repaired cracks in the second long furnace with a capacity of 3,500 tons of cast iron without the help of foreign experts.

He said that the company's production will reach 1.9 million tons of steel bar after the expansion of the steel mill.

The Esfahan steel mill has two long furnaces with nominal production capacities of 1,800 and 3,500 tons of cast iron daily. However production stands at 1,300 and 2,200 tons at present.

The company also has four rolling workshops, two of which are presently productive and two others are being completed.

Although the Soviet Union had undertaken to supervise the completion of the new workshops but [as received] Soviet experts left about five months ago claiming special situations caused by the Iraqi imposed war.

Since the Soviets left, the company has been administered solely by Iranian engineers, workers and technicians.

Various Groups of Volunteers Leave for Front

GF180539 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Oct 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, in continuation of the presence of the people's forces at the fronts, a large group of people's volunteer forces from various districts of Lorestan Province and fron Khorramabad yesterday afternoon departed for the fronts of right versus wrong. A report from the Central News Unit from Ilam also states that yesterday a massive group of the people's mobilization from Ilam Province, after completion of necessary training, left for the battlefronts amid a warm send-off by the people of the province.

Reports from other parts of our country also state that in the past 2 days, numerous groups of the people's combatant forces from the provinces of Bushehr and the cities of Qom, Yasuj, Do Gonbajan, Dehdasht, Rasht, Firuzkuh, Tuysarkan, Khodabandeh, Arak, Zanjan, and Masjed Soleyman left for the battlefronts.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,261
LD171651 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct 17, IRNA — An Iraqi war plane was downed by Iranian jet fighters near Khark Island at 14:14 (10:44 GMT) Tuesday [as received], the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Thursday.

Announcing this in its Communique Number 2261, the command said that during artillery and mortar battles between Iranian and Iraqi forces in Western fronts over the past wr hours more than 25 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded, and three tanks and eight observation posts and bunkers of the enemy destroyed.

The command added that Iran's Muslim fighters opened fire on Iraqi positions in the northwestern fornts on Wednesday, killing or wounding more than 15 Iraqi troops and destroying one munitions depot, 11 vehicles and several bunkers.

Elsewhere in these fronts, the communique said, artillery duels continued, being more intense in the regions of Sar Dasht and Seyyed Kan.

Iraqi forces sustained casualties and losses in Majnun Islands, Sharhani and elsewhere in the southern fronts on Wednesday when their positions were subjected to Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

Over the past 24 hours, a number of buildings in Abadan in Khuzestan Province were damaged by Iraq's long-range artillery fire, the communique concluded.

Abadan Shelled, Three Wounded
GF171552 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the mercenaries of Saddam's Zionist regime continued their savage actions in the past 24 hours by shelling several areas of the steadfast town of Abadan and surrounding villages with artillery and mortar rounds.

As a result of this crime, three of our civilian compatriots, two of whom are from the local Arab tribes, were wounded. Six houses were destroyed in Abadan.

Free Voice of Iran on Khomeyni's Guards Corps

GF111904 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Compatriots: Khomeyni's decree concerning the strengthening of the Guards Corps should be looked at with care and in detail. Khomeyni, as the supreme commander of the forces, has issued an order charging the commander of the guards corps with immediately equipping the Guards Corps with a powerful ground force, navy, and air force.

We should see what Khomeyni's aim is in ordering such a thing at this time when the Iran-Iraq war is undergoing one of its most sensitive periods. What has forced Khomeyni to make such a decision is the opposition of the armed forces to his crazy policies. From the time when Iraq retreated behind the border, a fundamental disagreement began between the armed forces and the government in Iran. The military commanders in Iran, giving due attention to all aspects, did not approve of the hasty attempts to take the war onto Iraqi soil. They believed that Iran was at a point to discuss peace from a position of strength and end the war with honor and with several advantages. Naturally, the army considered it the responsibility of the political leaders of the country to make general decisions about war or peace. However, the military men said that if peace efforts were fruitless and the decision were made to continue the war, then it should be carried out in an orderly manner and based on military strategy.

Under such circumstances it would have been the army that would have taken the initiative and been in complete charge of operations. This is something that the mullahs did not agree to. The mullahs believed that they could easily enter Iraq and create political and religious uprisings alongside their military victories, thus overthrowing the Iraqi regime. They naturally wanted the Iranian Army to act as an enforcing agent in their service and not have any share of the possible success or have its strength and cohesion increase through such changes. The mullahs needed the army and its experiences, but were afraid of giving the army the initiative. As a result, they created the Supreme Defense Council in which the armed forces had only one representative. This representative was only the fifth man in the pyramid of the main decisionmakers.

When the forecasts of military experts concerning the lack of any success of human wave attacks without the benefit of air cover came true, the mullahs decided to put all the might of the armed forces behind one such attack in order to, at least, achieve a show victory. The military commanders strongly resisted this idea, noting that such a gamble was not only dangerous to the regime but also dangerous for the country. Extensive attacks in several stages to infiltrate Iraq failed each time since they were not based on reasonable calculations and left Iran with immense costs and mountains of bodies. Commanders of the Guards Corps, who were the initiators of these mad plans, blamed the military for the defeats, claiming that they were unsuccessful due to a lack of cooperation by the armed forces. Following this, the war began at sea and in the air. Before the arrival of the criminal regime of Khomeyni and the Islamic revolution, Iran had the most powerful and effective air force in the region. However, following the revolution, the air force suffered severe blows in equipment, management, personnel and training.

The Iranian Navy has been relatively untouched and can still play a very effective role in ensuring the safety of the Persian Gulf and the defense of maritime borders of the country. However, since Iraq showed that it is capable of dealing heavy blows against Khark and tankers carrying Iranian oil from the vicinity of Khark Island, the mullahs became determined to involve the navy in adventures that have nothing to do with its duties. When

the Iranian Navy was ordered to seize commercial ships in the waters of the Persian Gulf and bring them to Iranian ports for inspection, the military commanders opposed it and noted that such an action is a form of piracy and will add to Iran's problems in international relations. Yet, since Khomeyni had decided to show his fangs and teeth to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar through such maneuvers, the Islamic Republic began seizing commercial ships. The former commander of the navy, who did not wish to share the burden of such responsibility, resigned. All these events have convinced Khomeyni that he cannot work with the armed forces and, in order to implement his policies, he needs a force that obeys him absolutely and avoids any argument over various issues.

The Iranian armed forces, irrespective of all the events in our country, continue to be a nationalist and disciplined army. The defense of Iran is a duty that the armed forces believes in with all their being and commitment. The armed forces are nationalist forces and consider themselves the Iranian Armed Forces. They can be affected by nationalist slogans and cannot be used for terrorist operations, guerilla warfare, and piracy. These armed forces cannot (?stand) the title given to it by the regime of mullahs. What is the meaning of the Army of Islam? There are 1 billion Muslims in the world and dozens of Muslim countries. When all these countries join each other, eradicate all their borders, and establish a religious empire, then such an entity will have an army that can be called the army of Islam.

Mr Khomeyni cannot live with such an armed force and that is why he has finally decided to replace the Iranian Army with his own private one, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. However, this is a dream that will never come true. The brave Iranian Army will resist such plots and will never allow the implementation of such a plot by a handful of state-selling mullahs.

Najat-e Iran Notes Increase in Terrorist Training

GF170737 (Clandestine) Radio Najat-e Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Oct 85

[Text] The Islamic regime's terrorist activity in Tehran has intensified. According to Radio Najat-e Iran correspondents in the capital, the Khomeyni government, has embroiled the people in a myriad of financial ills and homelessness, miseries like a useless war, and an increase in murder and abduction activities for which a huge budget has been allocated.

Recently a group of Afghans resident in the vicinity of Mashhad were moved to a village [word indistinct] in the Quchan district to complete a training course in arson, murder, and terrorism. It has been said that the Islamic regime has decided to utilize the services of the Afghan refugees in various groups and bands to carry out their terrorist plans. The person in charge of the training of these persons in the above village is a person named Mohammad 'Ali Kolahduz, who is the brother of Darban Kolahduz, a former army officer killed in an airplane accident with Fallahi and Fakuri [revolutionary guards]. At present, 37 bases and training camps exist all over Iran for training terrorists all over Iran. Mainly Syrians, Libyans, and Palestinians are instructors.

Paper Charges Soviet Chemical Weapons Use in DRA

LD171021 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — Morning daily *TEHRAN TIMES* Thursday sharply criticized the Soviet Union for its use of chemical weapons against Afghan's Muslim resistance fighters.

The daily said "The use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan, though hardly a surprise considering the Soviet criminal record in that country, adds a new serious dimension to the boody struggle for this Islamic nation".

TEHRAN TIMES said "The history of Afghanistan in the past six years has seen one of tragic atrocities, but it has now reached a turning point, and the mujahidin may have no adequate defenses against chemical weapons and bombs."

It is time that the world, and specially the Islamic world, come to the aid of Afghan Muslims, possibly through pressuring Soviet Russia, which claims to be a champion of the Third World nations and the rights of deprived people," said the daily.

TEHRAN TIMES added "Muslim resisters will have to continue using the only weapon at their disposal, and that is violent force against a foreign, hegemonistic power which believes in the philosophy of might is right".